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rationing and he has instructed the District Superintendent of Police to drop the prosecution proceedings instituted against Sri Bhadrayya."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Board of Revenue was competent to issue these proceedings issued?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir. The Director of Civil Supplies has been given power to take action whenever he finds it is necessary to do so."

Pre-audit in local bodies.

* 35 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred by the Government in the Local Fund audit, and the amount recovered from local bodies in 1946–47; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to appoint staff in local bodies for pre-audit purposes and recover the cost from the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The total expenditure incurred by the Government on the Local Fund Audit Department during 1946–7 was Rs. 4,84,483. The department audits the accounts both of local bodies and of other miscellaneous institutions. No fees are charged to the local bodies on this account except in regard to audit of the accounts of their Endowments and Electric Licence Schemes. Fees are charged for the audit of the accounts of the other miscellaneous institutions. The total amount of audit fees recovered in 1946–7 and credited to the Government was Rs. 1,10,812.

" (*b*) No."

Retrenchment due to decontrol of rationed articles.

* 36 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in view of the fact that controls on rice, cloths and several articles have recently been removed, the Government have retrenched the respective departments which were in charge of these controls; and

(*b*) whether the Government can give an approximate saving in expenditure by the retrenchment of the unwanted departments?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) *Food Department.*— (i) Controls over pulses, sugar, potatoes, etc., have recently been lifted. But rice is still a controlled commodity in this Province though the control is being relaxed progressively.

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(ii) The following are the gazetted posts abolished recently on account of the decontrol :—

(1) Nine posts of District Rationing Officers in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Nellore, South Arcot and Tanjore.

(2) District Food Reorganization Officer, Malabar.

(3) Potato Control Officer, Ootacamund.

(4) District Supply Officer, Vizagapatam.

(5) Deputy Secretary to Government, Food Department.

(6) One Assistant Secretary to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

(7) One of the two Deputy Controllers of Food Rationing.

(iii) A number of non-gazetted posts has also been abolished. Further posts will be abolished as derationing and decontrol are extended to other areas.

Textile Control Department.—(i) Consequent on the relaxation of control over textiles, the following gazetted posts in the Textile Control Department have been abolished :—

(1) Twenty-four posts of Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioners in the districts.

(2) One post of Joint Provincial Textile Commissioner.

(3) Two posts of Assistant Textile Commissioners in the Provincial Textile Commissioner's office.

(ii) A number of non-gazetted posts in the districts were also retrenched. The Collectors were asked to retain not more than one Textile Control Officer, one Upper Division Clerk, two Lower Division Clerks and two peons and to abolish all other posts in excess of the above number. In the Provincial Textile Commissioner's office the following non-gazetted staff has been retrenched :—

(1) Two Superintendents.

(2) Eight Upper Division Clerks.

(3) Ten Lower Division Clerks.

(4) Three Steno-typists.

(5) Two typists.

(6) One attender.

(7) One Stamping Inspector.

(8) Thirteen peons.

The question of effecting further retrenchments in the districts and in the Provincial Textile Commissioner's office is under the consideration of the Government.

" (b) Details of the actual strength of the non-gazetted staff disbanded are not readily available and it is not therefore possible to give an estimate of the saving in expenditure on

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account of retrenchments. So far as the Textile Control Department is concerned, a saving of four to five lakhs on account of the retrenchments so far effected is expected."

Case against Sri K. M. Guruswami Chetti of Poonamallee.

* 37 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Sri K. M. Guruswami Chetti of Poonamallee is a wholesale licensee in Poonamallee and retail shop licensee in several places such as Poonamallee, Mangadu and Tiruvallur, etc.;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was not a textile licensee during the basic periods;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that he started his business as a standard cloth dealer;

(*d*) whether such non-licensee can be given licences for wholesale and retail dealer;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on 25th August 1946 the said Sri Guruswami Chetti removed from his house, Poonamallee, a quantity of mill-made clothes including Buckingham and Carnatic Mill clothes to Mangadu shop;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that on 25th August 1946 one Rajamanickam Pillai of Poonamallee reported the matter to the Police and the Police officer seized the goods;

(*g*) whether the goods were subsequently handed over to Sri K. M. Guruswami Chetti;

(*h*) whether Sri Rajamanickam Pillai reported this matter to the Provincial Textile Commissioner on 26th August 1946;

(*i*) what action was taken in this matter;

(*j*) why there is such long delay in the disposal of this matter; and

(*k*) whether the Government will order an enquiry into this matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Industries):—" (*a*) It is a fact that Sri K. M. Guruswamy Chetti is a wholesale licensee at Poonamallee and a retail licensee at Poonamallee and Mangadu. He had a wholesale licence at Tiruvallur but has since wound up his business at that place.

" (*b*) No. He was a dealer in mill cloth in 1942 before the licensing scheme came into force.

" (*c*) No. He started his business as mill cloth dealer in 1942 and subsequently became a licensee for the sale of standard cloth.

" (*d*) Does not arise.

" (*e*) Yes.